KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Prof. Dr. **Paolo Bussotti**
University of Udine, Italy

Title: THE CONCEPT OF FORCE: AN EDUCATIONAL ITINERARY WITH HISTORICAL SUPPORT

Dr Bussotti graduated with first-class honours in History of Science and Technology from the Faculty of Humanities (degree course in History) of the University of **Pisa** on 25th November, 1991. In July 1996, he received a Ph.D. in Historical Sciences at the University of **San Marino**, with a thesis on the foundations of mathematics, wherein he analysed four authors in particular, namely **Bolzano**, **Cantor**, **Frege**, and **Husserl**. In 2005, he was appointed with a Humboldt fellowship at the LMU, Munich.
Currently, Dr. Paolo Bussotti is Assistant Professor in History of Science and Technology, at the DIUM.

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Prof. Dr. **Muammer Çalık**
Trabzon University, Türkiye

Prof. Dr. Muammer Çalık obtained Bachelor, Master, and PhD degrees from Karadeniz Technical University, Trabzon, Türkiye. His research interests cover a wide range of areas in science and chemistry education. He holds editorial positions, including senior editor of the *International Journal of Science and Mathematics Education*, editor of *Education and Science* and the *Journal of Turkish Science Education*, and editorial board membership for the *Canadian Journal of Science, Technology and Mathematics Education*, *Problems of Education in the 21st Century*, and the *Journal of Science Learning*.

Title: EFFECTIVENESS OF SOCIO-SCIENTIFIC ISSUES-BASED SCIENCE TEACHING IN PROMOTING SCIENTIFIC LITERACY

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Prof. Dr. **Katarzyna Potyrala**
Cracow University of Technology, Poland

Title: DIGITAL LITERACY IN THE LIGHT OF THE PEDAGOGY OF CHANGE

Prof. Dr. Katarzyna Potyrala is a distinguished academic affiliated with the Cracow University of Technology, Poland. Her research focuses on science education, biology education, and innovative teaching methodologies, with particular expertise in interdisciplinary approaches and sustainability education. She has contributed extensively to curriculum development and teacher training programs in Poland and internationally.

As an active researcher, she has authored numerous publications on didactics, environmental education, and the integration of technology in science teaching. She holds editorial roles in several academic journals and participates in international scientific committees, promoting collaboration in science education research. Prof. Potyrala is also involved in EU-funded educational projects and has been a keynote speaker at conferences addressing contemporary challenges in science pedagogy.

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Dr. **Stamatios Papadakis**
University of Crete, Greece

Title: FOSTERING COMPUTATIONAL THINKING AND CODING SKILLS IN EARLY YEARS EDUCATION

Dr. Stamatios Papadakis is a researcher and academic affiliated with the University of Crete, Greece, specializing in educational technology, computational thinking, and STEM/STEAM education. His work explores the integration of digital tools, robotics, and coding in early childhood and primary education, with a focus on enhancing cognitive development and creative problem-solving skills.

An active contributor to the field, Dr. Papadakis has published extensively in high-impact journals on topics such as game-based learning, mobile learning applications, and ICT in education. He serves as an editorial board member and reviewer for several international journals, including *Education and Information Technologies* (Springer) and *Computers & Education Open* (Elsevier).

Additionally, he participates in EU-funded projects aimed at innovating pedagogy through technology and has collaborated with global research networks to promote digital literacy in schools.

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Dr. **Lukáš Richterek**
Palacky University, Czech Republic

Title: SUPPORTING PHYSICS AND SCIENCE EDUCATION WITH ICT TOOLS

Dr. Lukáš Richterek is an academic and researcher at Palacký University Olomouc, Czech Republic, specializing in physics education, quantum physics teaching methodologies, and the integration of information technologies in science education. His research focuses on improving student understanding of complex physics concepts through innovative pedagogical approaches, including interactive simulations and experimental learning.
An active contributor to the field, Dr. Richterek has co-authored multiple publications on physics didactics and STEM education, often collaborating with international research teams. He participates in national and EU-funded projects aimed at modernizing physics curricula and enhancing teacher training programs across Europe.
Dr. Richterek also serves as a reviewer for scientific journals in physics education and has been involved in organizing educational workshops and conferences to promote best practices in science teaching.

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Dr. **Gražina Šmitienė**
Klaipėda University, Lithuania

Title: ENGINEERING IN PRIMARY EDUCATION: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Dr. Gražina Šmitienė is an associate professor and researcher at Klaipėda University, Lithuania, specializing in educational sciences, lifelong learning, and teacher professional development. Her academic work focuses on adult education, vocational training methodologies, and competency-based learning in higher education settings.
With an extensive publication record, Dr. Šmitienė has contributed to research on educational policy, curriculum design, and quality assurance in education, particularly in the context of European Union standards. She actively participates in international projects related to education modernization and teacher training, collaborating with Baltic and Nordic academic networks.
Dr. Šmitienė serves in editorial/advisory roles for educational research journals and has been involved in developing national education strategies in Lithuania. Her expertise also includes comparative education studies and sustainability integration in education programs.

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